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PTQ1055

PAGE 01 BUENOS 04427 250433Z
ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	COR-01	ACDA-10	ACDE-00	AID-00	ARA-01	A-00
	CA-02	CCO-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	COME-00	CTME-00	OASY-00
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01
	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	INSE-00
	L-01	ADS-00	MMP-00	M-00	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00
	OCS-03	OIS-01	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00
	SP-00	SSO-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	ASDS-01	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	DRL-09	G-00	/033W			

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R 221544Z JUL 96 (CCY ADX510145 MSI3347 675)

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2460

INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM//SCCC//

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 004427

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARAS 4 AND 5 AND SUBJECT)

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PTER, PGOV, AR

SUBJECT: CRIES FOR JUSTICE AT THE ANNIVERSARY

MEMORIAL SERVICE OF THE AMIA BOMBING

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 04427 250433Z

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4244

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J OLSON

DATE/CASE ID: 13 MAY 2008 200601030

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1. SUMMARY: TO MARK THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE TERRORIST BOMBING OF THE ARGENTINE JEWISH MUTUAL ASSOCIATION (AMIA), MORNING AND AFTERNOON SERVICES WERE HELD JULY 18 AT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER IN BUENOS AIRES. THE SMALLER MORNING SERVICE WAS ATTENDED BY ABOUT 1,500 PEOPLE WHO REMEMBERED LOVED ONES AS THEIR NAMES WERE CALLED AND A CANDLE WAS LIT IN MEMORY OF EACH FATALITY. BETWEEN 5,000 AND 10,000 PEOPLE ATTENDED THE LATE AFTERNOON SERVICE THAT FEATURED SEVERAL IMPASSIONED SPEAKERS. WHILE POLITICAL OPPOSITION LEADERS ATTENDED THE SERVICES IN FORCE, THE GOVERNMENT SENT NO HIGH-LEVEL REPRESENTATIVES, PRESUMABLY TO AVOID THE HOSTILE REACTION EVIDENT LAST YEAR FROM FAMILY MEMBERS OUTRAGED BY LACK OF PROGRESS IN SOLVING THE CASE. END SUMMARY.

2. TWO YEARS AGO, ON JULY 18, THE AMIA JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER IN BUENOS AIRES WAS BOMBED KILLING 86 PEOPLE AND WOUNDING MORE THAN 300. THIS WAS THE SECOND TERRORIST ACT TARGETING THE ARGENTINE JEWISH COMMUNITY; THE FIRST WAS IN 1992 WHEN THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN ARGENTINA WAS BOMBED AND 29 WERE KILLED AND 200 INJURED. ALTHOUGH THE GOA HAS YET TO FIND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR EITHER ATTACK, IN THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMIA CASE, INVESTIGATING JUDGE JUAN JOSE GALEANO HAS HAD 14 BUENOS AIRES PROVINCE POLICE OFFICERS ARRESTED WHO ALLEGEDLY PARTICIPATED IN A STOLEN CAR RING THAT SUPPLIED THE VAN USED IN THE

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 04427 250433Z
BOMBING OF THE AMIA COMMUNITY CENTER (REFTEL).

3. AT 9:53 A.M. ON THIS JULY 18, THE EXACT TIME OF THE AMIA BOMBING, 1,500 PEOPLE MOURNED AS SIRENS HOWLED IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES. ONCE THE VICTIMS' NAMES WERE READ AND A CANDLE LIT FOR EACH FATALITY, A MINUTE OF SILENCE WAS OBSERVED. THE AMBASSADOR OF ISRAEL, YTZHAK AVIRAN, THE PRESIDENT OF AMIA, OSCAR HANSMAN, RUBEN BERAJA FROM THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION OF JEWISH ASSOCIATIONS (DAIA), AND BUENOS

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AIRES' RECENTLY ELECTED MAYOR FERNANDO DE LA RUA WERE AMONG THOSE WHO ATTENDED.

4. IN CONTRAST WITH THE SOMBER AND MOSTLY SILENT MEMORIAL SERVICE IN THE MORNING, A SERIES OF IMPASSIONED SPEAKERS AT THE AFTERNOON EVENT SHARPLY CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT'S INVESTIGATION OF THE BOMBING. THE PRESIDENT OF AMIA, OSCAR HANSMAN, LED OFF THE SERVICE BEFORE A CROWD OF 5,000 TO 10,000 PEOPLE. DIANA MALAMUD, A SPOKESPERSON FOR THE FAMILIES OF VICTIMS, GAVE AN EMOTIONAL SPEECH THAT AROUSED THE CROWD AND ENDED IN A LENGTHY OVATION. IN HER SPEECH, MALAMUD ACCUSED THE GOA OF IGNORING DEMANDS FOR JUSTICE AND CONDEMNED PRESIDENT CARLOS MENEM FOR FAILING TO VISIT THE SITE OF THE NEWLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION REPLACEMENT BUILDING FOR THE AMIA CENTER. IN REFERENCE TO THE SUSPECTED IRANIAN EMBASSY INVOLVEMENT IN THE BOMBINGS, SHE CRITICIZED THE SUPREME COURT FOR ALLOWING "MURDERERS TO CONTINUE TO ENJOY IMPUNITY". THE APPLAUSE ABRUPTLY ENDED AND GRUMBLES OF DISCONTENT ERUPTED AS DAIA PRESIDENT

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PAGE 04 BUENOS 04427 250433Z
BERAJA MADE CLOSING REMARKS WHICH FAILED TO CONTINUE IN THIS EMOTIONAL VEIN OR TO DIRECTLY ATTACK THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE CASE.

5. COMMENT: THE TWO SERVICES REITERATED THE ARGENTINES' DEMAND FOR JUSTICE AND SENT A MESSAGE TO THE GOVERNMENT THAT THE AMIA AND ISRAELI BOMBINGS HAVE NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN. THE ABSENCE OF A HIGH RANKING GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE MAY HAVE AVOIDED THE UNPLEASANT CONFRONTATION WITH A HOSTILE CROWD WHICH INTERIOR MINISTER CARLOS CORACH HAD LAST YEAR, BUT IT DID LITTLE TO UNDERSCORE THE GOA'S DETERMINATION TO BRING THE TERRORISTS TO JUSTICE.

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 04427 221546Z
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